SURAH OF AS-SHARH

THE RESEARCH:
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AS-SHARH

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THE REFERENCES

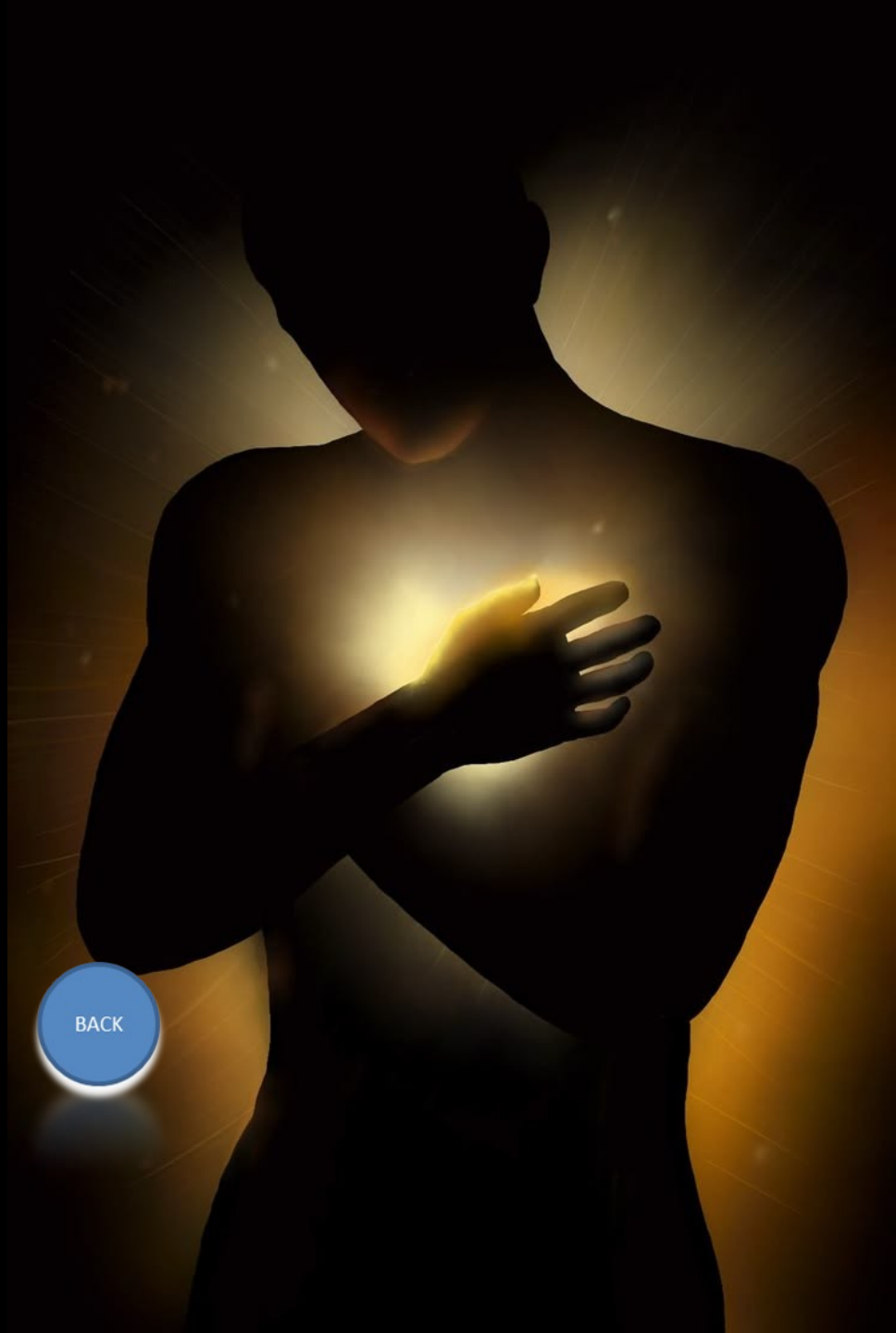
1) https://iqra-quran.com/chapters-of-quran/94-ash-sharh/

2) https://quranmedia.online

THE BACKGROUND 1

Its Name

- Surah Name: Ash-Sharh (سـورة الـانشراح)
- Translation: The Relief / The Opening-Up
- Origin of name: The name comes from the phrase "Alam nashrah laka sadrak" (“Did We not expand your chest for you?”) in the first verse. It is also known as Surah Alam Nashrah, Surah Alam Nashrah Laka, Surah Inshirah or Surah Ash-Sharh.



Revelation Period

- Makki or Madani: Makki
- Approximate Time of Revelation: Early Makkan period, shortly after the revelation of Surah Ad-Duhaa

BACK

Historical Context

- **Surah Ash-Sharh was revealed during the early stages of the Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) mission in Makkah, a time marked by psychological hardship and social rejection. This was a period when the message of Islam was still new, and the Prophet faced criticism, mockery, and isolation from his own tribe and the larger Qurayshi society.**

- The early Muslim converts, many of whom were poor and oppressed, were also subjected to insults and discrimination by the Makkan pagan elites. Some scholars mention that the surah was revealed partly to comfort those Muslims who were marginalized due to their economic circumstances [1].

- This Surah came as a continuation of Surah Ad-Duhaa, offering emotional support and reassurance to the Prophet. It served to remind him that despite the hardships he was facing, Allah had not abandoned him. It recalled past blessings and divine support, and pointed to the relief and ease that would follow current difficulties.

- References:

[1] Al-Suyuti, Asbab al-Nuzul, p. 213.

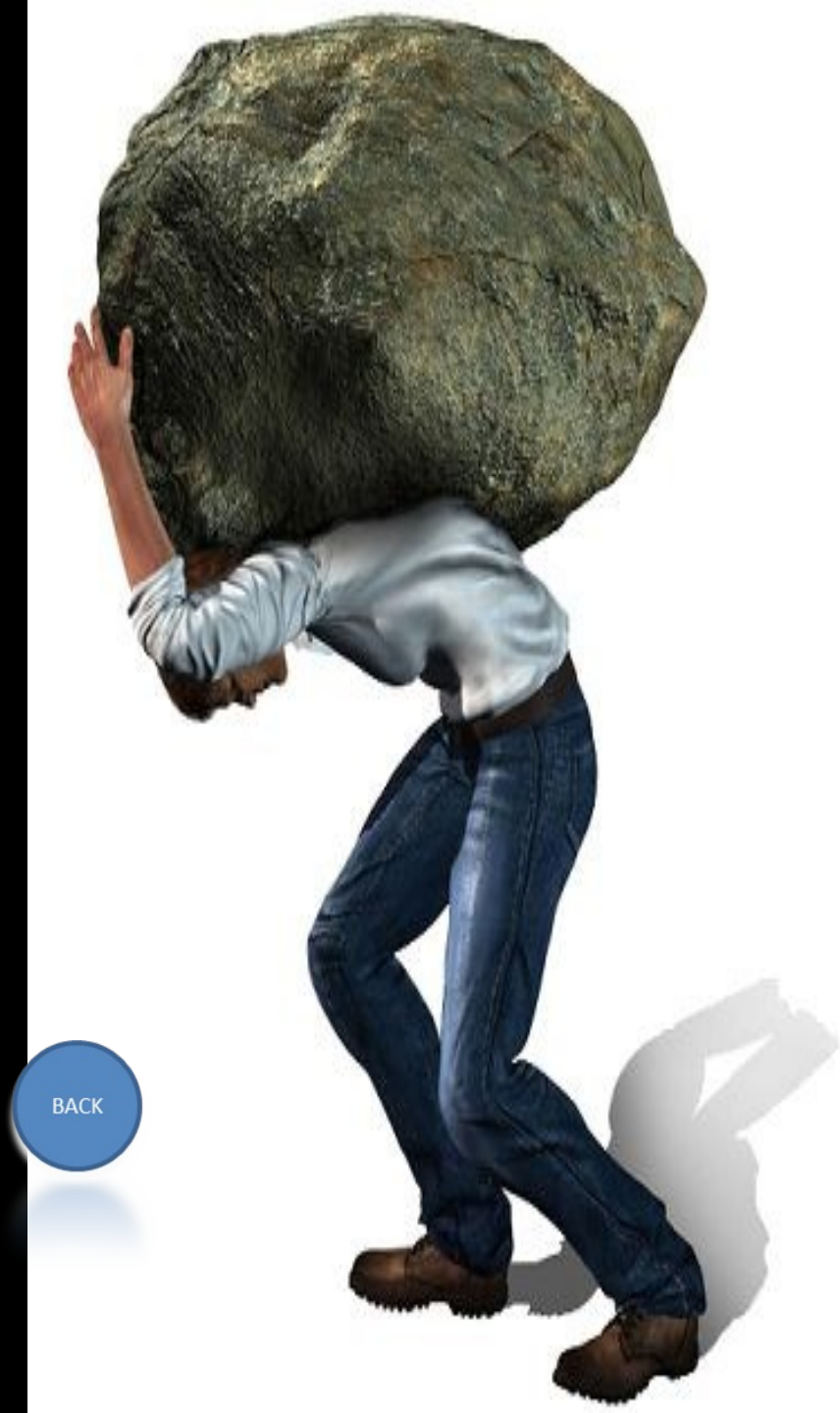
Main Themes

- Comfort and Reassurance to the Prophet:

The surah was revealed to console Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) during the early and difficult days of his mission. It reminds him of the divine care he receives and encourages him to continue with patience and hope.

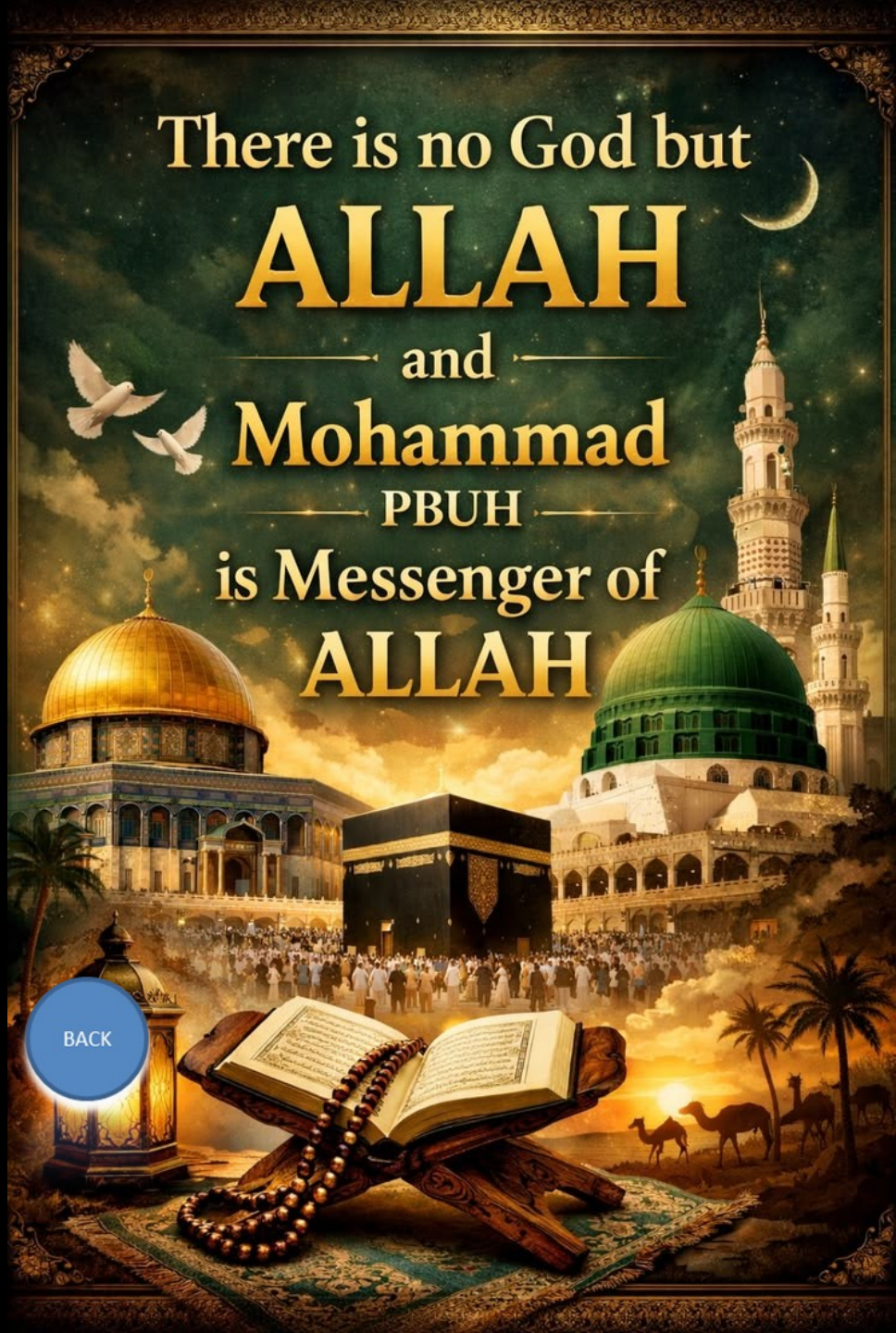
- Removal of Burdens:

Allah informs the Prophet that a heavy burden has been lifted from him. This may refer to emotional struggles, hardship in spreading the message, or the pressures he faced before and during the early stages of prophethood.



- Elevation of His Status:

The surah highlights that the Prophet’s name and status have been raised, showing Allah’s honor and love for him among people in both this world and the hereafter.



- **Ease Comes With Hardship:**

A powerful message repeated twice is that with every difficulty, there is ease. This theme brings hope and motivation, stating that challenges in life are always accompanied by relief and better outcomes.

BACK

- Call to Continued Effort and Devotion:

In the closing verses, the Prophet is advised to stay active when he is not occupied and to stay fully focused on turning to his Lord.

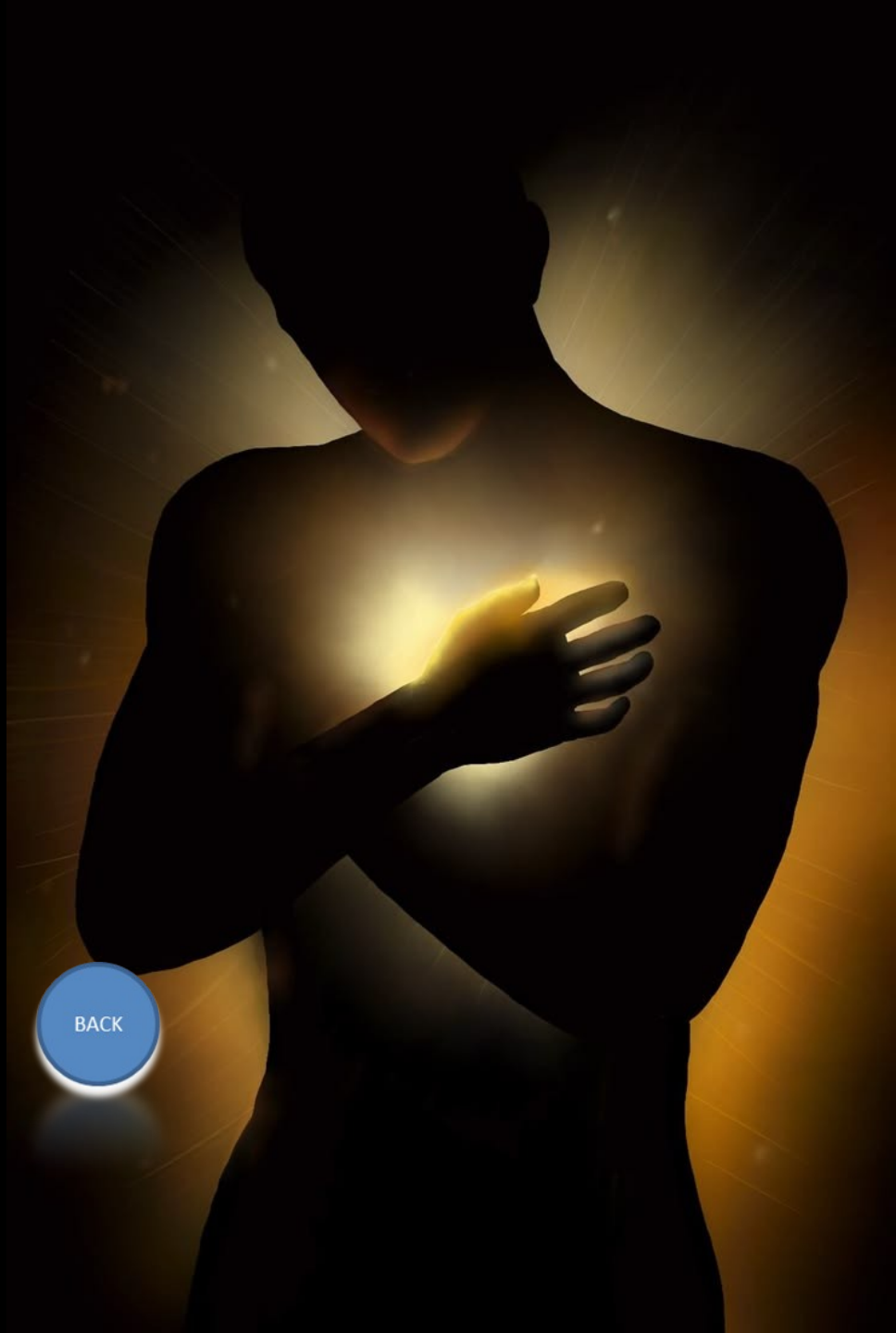
Key Lessons

- Allah comforts the Prophet during times of hardship and removes his burden.
- With every difficulty, there is ease — this is repeated to give strong reassurance.
- Elevation of the Prophet’s status shows that patience leads to honor.
- When free from tasks, continue striving in devotion and turn to Allah.

THE AYAT IN DETAILS 2

أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ ﴿١﴾

Did We not expand for you, [O Muhammad], your breast?



وَوَضَعْنَا عَنكَ وِزْرَكَ ﴿٢﴾

And We removed from you your burden

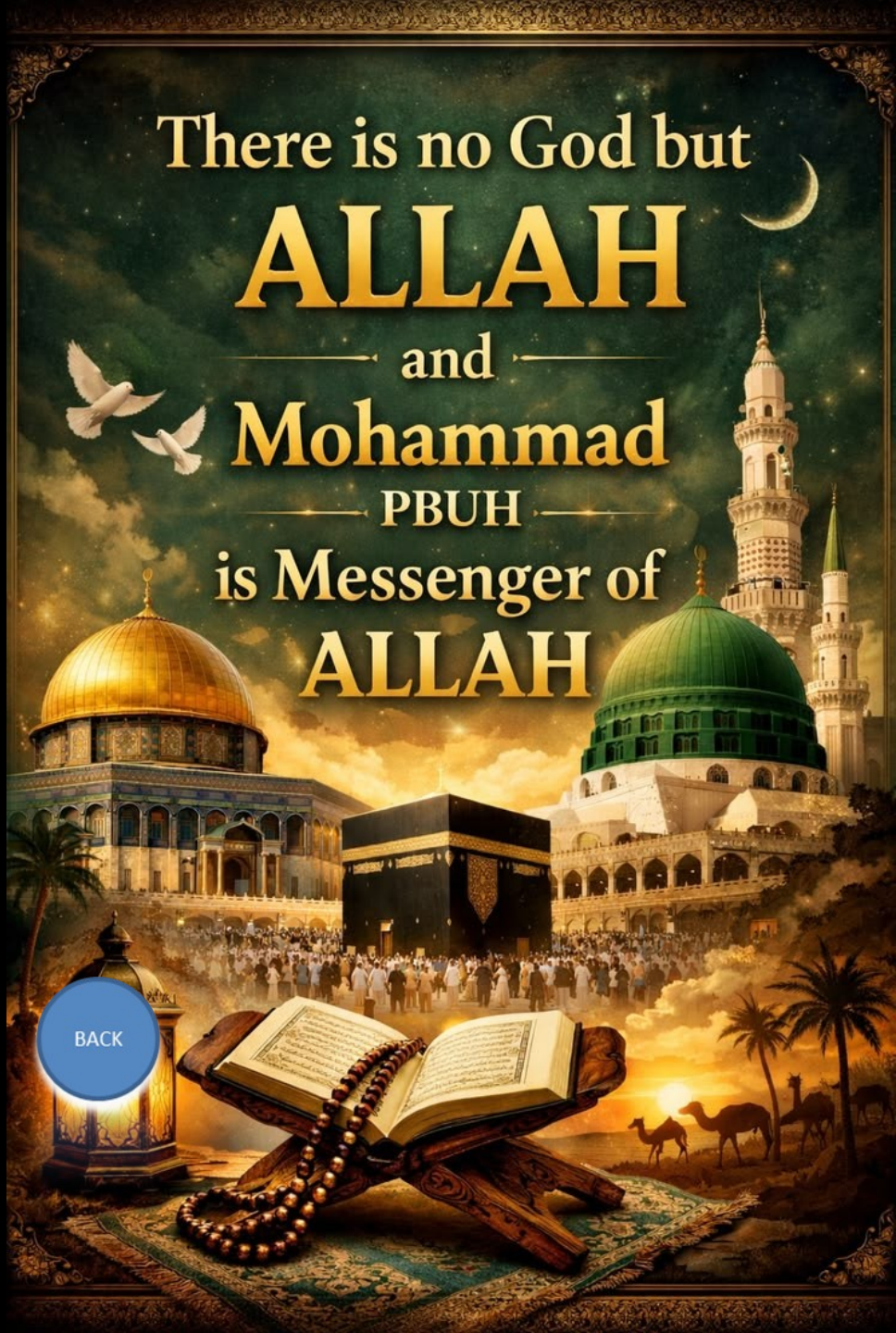
BACK

الَّذِيٓ أَنقَضَ ظَهۡرَكَ ٣

Which had weighed upon your back

وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ ٤

And raised high for you your repute.



فَإِنَّ مَعَ ٱلْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۝٥

For indeed,
with hardship
[will be] ease.

إِنَّ مَعَ ٱلْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ٦

Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.

فَإِذَا فَرَغْتَ فَٱنصَبْ ٧

So when you have finished [your duties], then stand up [for worship].

وَإِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ فَٱرۡغَب ٨

And to your Lord direct [your] longing.

EXCERCISES

1. Remembering (Recall)

1) What is another name of Surah Ash-Sharḥ?
2) How many verses are there in this surah?
3) What favor did Allah mention first in the surah?
4) What burden did Allah remove from the Prophet ﷺ?
5) What did Allah raise for the Prophet ﷺ?
6) Which statement is repeated twice in the surah?
7) What does Allah command the Prophet ﷺ to do after completing a task?
8) To whom should one direct hope and desire according to the last verse?

2. Understanding (Comprehension)

1) What is meant by "Did We not expand for you your breast"?
2) Why is the burden described as one that "weighed heavily upon your back"?
3) What does raising the Prophet's mention mean?
4) Why do you think Allah repeated the promise that ease comes with hardship?
5) How do the last two verses connect with the rest of the surah?
6) What is the main message of Surah Ash-Sharḥ?
7) How does this surah comfort the Prophet ﷺ?

3. Applying

1) How can a student apply the lesson "with hardship comes ease" during exam time?
2) What should a Muslim do when facing a difficult situation according to this surah?
3) How can you follow the command to continue striving after completing a task?
4) Describe a situation in your life where this surah could provide encouragement.
5) How can the final verse help someone stay focused on Allah rather than people?

4. Analyzing

1) How are the blessings mentioned in the first half of the surah connected to the commands in the second half?
2) Compare the concepts of hardship and ease as presented in the surah.
3) Why might Allah remind the Prophet of past blessings before giving future guidance?
4) How does the structure of the surah strengthen its message of hope?
5) What relationship can you find between gratitude for blessings and perseverance during hardships?
6) How do the repeated verses emphasize Allah's

5. Evaluating

1) Which lesson from Surah Ash-Sharḥ do you think is most important for young people today? Why?
2) Why is hope in Allah a better response to hardship than despair?
3) Do you think remembering past blessings helps people face current challenges? Explain.
4) Why is continuous effort after completing a task an important principle for success?
5) How does this surah strengthen a believer's trust in Allah?
6) Which verse do you find most impactful? Give reasons for your choice.

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

1) Create a short speech explaining the theme of Surah Ash-Sharḥ to your classmates.
2) Design a mind map showing the main ideas of the surah.
3) Write a real-life story that illustrates the meaning of "Indeed, with hardship comes ease.“
4) Create a poster highlighting the lessons of perseverance and hope found in the surah.
5) Compose a reflection on how this surah can help someone overcome stress and anxiety.
6) Develop a practical action plan inspired by the final two verses of the surah.

Higher-Order Reflection Questions

1) Why do you think Allah paired reminders of blessings with reminders of future ease?
2) What would happen to a person's outlook on life if they truly believed that every hardship is accompanied by ease?
3) How does this surah balance optimism with hard work?
4) In what ways can the message of this surah transform a community facing difficulties?
5) How does Surah Ash-Sharḥ complement the message of Surah Ad-Duha?
6) What does this surah teach about the relationship between divine support and human effort?

و الحمد لله رب العالمين